



TESTIMONY, GAE COMMITTEE, MARCH 10, 2014

My name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative representative for Council 4 AFSCME.

Council 4 supports:

S.B. No. 351 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS. This bill seeks to ensure that there are proper safeguards in place when privatizing public services. There have been many cases in Connecticut and other states where improper privatizations, not in the public's interest, have taken place.

S.B. No. 382 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERPAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES. Sometimes state employees have been assessed bills for overpayment through no fault of their own. After two years it would seem that a reasonable period of time has passed. This is similar to other processes such as time limits for small claims in the court system.

Council 4 opposes:

S.B. No. 349 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. This is an ill-advised bill that seems to attack existing law by hobbling the regulatory process. If there are such onerous laws warranting this then should not such laws be repealed by the General Assembly? Destroying the enforcement of existing law by hobbling regulation is a mistake.

H.B. No. 5431 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUSPENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES IMPOSED ON CERTAIN BUSINESS ENTITIES. This bill does not take the seriousness of offenses into account. It would simply seem to offer a break the law for free card to businesses for a first offense. This seems to make the law a mockery. Violations of labor law, misrepresenting workers, hiring undocumented workers and refusing to pay workers, are at an all time high. The middle class is disappearing. This is a particularly inadvisable bill.

H.B. No. 5433 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL. Connecticut briefly had an Office of Inspector General in the 1980s. It met with disastrous results and was quickly abolished. The state has a bipartisan auditors

office which appears to work quite well. There appears to be no need to start this new state agency.

H.B. No. 5481 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS. The state currently has processes for administrative hearings. These processes have passed judicial muster and met the test of time. There appears to be no need for starting this new state agency.

We would be happy to provide further information. Thank you for your consideration.